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Stamas Introduces Bill to Reverse 23rd and 26th Court Split

LANSING- State Senator Tony Stamas, R-Midland, last week introduced Senate Bill 74 that would reverse action the Michigan Legislature took last year when it reorganized Michigan's circuit court system.

Public Act 92 of 2002 redrew the Circuit and District Court boundaries across the state. In doing so, many Northern Michigan Counties, including Alcona, Alpena, Iosco and Montmorency Counties were drawn into new districts that some felt would have a negative fiscal impact on court operations. Also an issue were counties having new judges that were not elected by the people of those counties in question.

"Many residents of Northern Michigan felt they were being short-changed during this restructuring process", Stamas stated. "I fought this change at the time, and now I am taking the next step to move the Northern Michigan Court system back to the way it was, and the way the residents of those counties demand. On top of that, Michigan is facing a substantial budget crisis, and this will save our state money."

"I appreciate Senator Stamas taking the initiative to introduce this corrective legislation" said Judge Joseph Swallow, chief Judge of the 26th Circuit Court. "He has set partisan politics aside and has fought this change with us the entire way, and he continues to demonstrate his commitment to the communities this will affect by taking this step."

Senate Bill 74 redraws the 26th Circuit Court to include Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle Counties. When the boundaries were changed last year, Alcona was moved to the 23rd Circuit Court with Arenac, Iosco, and Oscoda Counties while Alpena and Montmorency were left alone to make up the 26th Circuit Court.